

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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on Remilitarization

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1. The Soviets are apparently pressing for a referendum, along the lines recently made public in Essen, for the Soviet Zone of Germany, as well. The Soviets have informed the Politburo that they should incorporate a demand for 'A Peace Treaty in 1951', into the present drive for a referendum.
2. The Politburo was originally not in favor of specifying that the Peace Treaty should be concluded in 1951, but the Soviets attached importance to this point. The reason given was that the Soviets wanted to inject a new development into the German problem. They aim to bring up this point at the Council of Foreign Ministers discussions, as they hope by this means to make the inclusion of West Germany in the Western Bloc impossible in this, the critical year.
3. The purpose of holding a referendum now in the Soviet Zone of Germany as well as in the West, is to make it possible, in deliberations with the other three powers, to involve the Germans themselves in the controversy. This will not come about by East-West Government talks, as previous attempts have miscarried, but by means of the referendum. The Soviets believe that the holding of such a referendum should be the first and foremost goal of the present Soviet policy in Germany.

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